

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) Flanged A flanged connection (13) for fixing a gas-filled spring (10) in a machine tool (12), the flanged connection (13) comprising an upper flange half (16) and a lower flange half (17), which can be joined together and which each have a through-opening intended to receive the gas-filled spring (10), and a locking ring (18) intended to secure the gas-filled spring (10) by insertion into a groove of complementary design around the gas-filled spring (10) and intended for fixing between the flange halves (16, 17), characterised in that wherein the locking ring (18) is supplemented by a fixing element (19) designed to apply a clamping force (F₁) around the gas-filled spring (10) when joining the flange halves (16, 17) together.

2. (currently amended) Flanged The flanged connection (13) according to Claim 1, characterised in that claim 1, wherein the locking ring (18) and the fixing element (19) are designed as at least two separate parts.

3. (currently amended) Flanged The flanged connection (13) according to Claim 2, characterised in that claim 2, wherein the fixing element (19) is furthermore designed to apply a contact force against the locking ring (18).

4. (currently amended) Flanged The flanged connection (13) according to Claim 1, characterised in that claim 1, wherein the locking ring (18) and the fixing element (19) are

designed as an integrated unit.

5. (currently amended) ~~Flanged~~ The flanged connection (13) according to ~~Claim 1~~,
~~characterised in that~~ claim 1, wherein at least one of the flange halves (16, 17) on its inside has a
section inclined in relation to the central axis of the flanged connection (13) and designed to
bring a correspondingly inclined section on the outside of the fixing element (19) into
engagement in order to produce the clamping force (F_1).

6. (currently amended) ~~Flanged~~ The flanged connection (13) according to ~~Claim 5~~,
~~characterised in that~~ claim 5, wherein the fixing element (19) has a groove (23) running along its
outside and designed to bring a projecting part (24) arranged on the inside of one of the flange
halves (16, 17) having the inclined section into engagement.

7. (currently amended) ~~Flanged~~ The flanged connection (13) according to ~~Claim 2~~,
~~characterised in that~~ claim 2, wherein the fixing element (19) has a recess along its inside
designed to receive the locking ring (18).

8. (currently amended) ~~Flanged~~ The flanged connection (13) according to ~~Claim 1~~,
~~characterised in that~~ claim 1, wherein the flanged connection (13) is fitted to the machine tool
(12) by means of fasteners (15) and that the fasteners (15) are designed to generate the clamping
force (F_1) between the fixing element (19) and the gas-filled spring (10) and where appropriate to
generate a contact force between the fixing element (19) and the locking ring (18).

9. (currently amended) Flanged The flanged connection (13) according to Claim 1, characterised in that claim 1, wherein the clamping force (F_4) is designed to prevent rotation of the gas-filled spring (10).

10. (currently amended) Method A method of fixing a gas-filled spring (10) in a machine tool (12), by which method an upper flange half (16) and a lower flange half (17) which can be joined together are fitted around the gas-filled spring (10) and a locking ring (18) arranged between the flange halves (16, 17) is fitted around the gas-filled spring (10) in a groove (14) of complementary design and is fixed between the flange halves (16, 17) securing the gas-filled spring (10), characterised in that wherein when joining a clamping force (F_4) is applied around the gas-filled spring (10) by a fixing element (19) supplementing the locking ring (18).

11. (currently amended) Method The method according to Claim 10, characterised in that claim 10, wherein the locking ring (18) and the fixing element (19) are designed as at least two separate parts.

12. (currently amended) Method The method according to Claim 11, characterised in that claim 11, wherein when joining a contact force is also applied against the locking ring (18) by the fixing element (19).

13. (currently amended) Method The method according to Claim 10, characterised in that claim 10, wherein the locking ring (18) and the fixing element (19) are designed as an integrated unit.

14. (currently amended) Method The method according to Claim 10, characterised in that claim 10, wherein a section inclined in relation to the central axis of the flanged connection (13) on the inside of at least one of the flange halves (16, 17) is brought into engagement with a correspondingly inclined section on the outside of the fixing element (19), the fixing element (19) being applied around the gas-filled spring (10) with the clamping force (F_4) and where appropriate being applied against the locking ring (18) with a contact force.

15. (currently amended) Method The method according to Claim 14, characterised in that claim 14, wherein a groove (23) running along the outside of the fixing element (19) is brought into engagement with a projecting part (24) arranged on one of the flange halves having the inclined section.

16. (currently amended) Method The method according to Claim 10, characterised in that claim 10, wherein the clamping force (F_4) is generated when the flanged connection (13) is fitted to the machine tool (12) and that the clamping force (F_4) is of a predefined magnitude.

17. (currently amended) Method The method according to Claim 16, characterised in that claim 16, wherein the magnitude of the clamping force (F_4) is adjusted by adjusting the tightening torque of the fasteners (15) used for fitting.

18. (currently amended) Method The method according to Claim 10, characterised in that claim 10, wherein clamping force (F_4) serves to prevent rotation of the gas-filled spring (10).